

CLAIMS

1. A media converter comprising:
a media compressor generating compressed media data in an immediately streamable media (ISM) format from a digitized media input; and
a computer interface, coupled to the compressor, to receive the media data in the ISM format and transmit it to a computer using a communications protocol;
the ISM format being a media format needing no format modifications by the computer for the compressed media data in such format to be transmitted over a network coupled to the computer and to be viewed by a streaming media player.

2. A converter as recited in claim 1 further comprising a media analog/digital (A/D) converter coupled to media compressor for sending digitized media to the compressor.

3. A converter as recited in claim 1, wherein the compressor comprises an updateable nonvolatile memory that may be modified by the computer.

4. A converter as recited in claim 1, wherein the compressor comprises multiple compressors that are selectable by a user.

5. A converter as recited in claim 1, wherein the compressor comprises multiple compressors that are selectable by the computer.

1 6. A converter as recited in claim 1, wherein the ISM format of the
2 compressed media data is in Advanced Streaming Format (ASF).

3
4 7. A converter as recited in claim 1, wherein the ISM format of the
5 compressed media data is in Windows Media Format.

6
7 8. A converter as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer interface
8 comprises a Universal Serial Bus (USB) input/output (I/O) device and the
9 communications protocol is a USB protocol.

10
11 9. A media conversion method comprising:
12 compressing digital media into compressed media data in an immediately
13 streamable media (ISM) format, and
14 sending the compressed media data in the ISM format to a computer by
15 using a communications protocol over a communications protocol interface;
16 transmitting to a streaming media player, over a network coupled to the
17 computer, the compressed media data in the ISM format without any format
18 modifications by the computer.

19
20 10. A method as recited in claim 9 further comprising converting analog
21 media into digital media for compressing.

22
23 11. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the ISM format of the
24 compressed media data is in Advanced Streaming Format (ASF).

25

1 12. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the ISM format of the
2 compressed media data is in Windows Media Format.

3
4 13. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the computer interface
5 comprises a Universal Serial Bus (USB) input/output (I/O) device and the
6 communications protocol is a USB protocol.

7
8 14. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
9 instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs the method as recited in
10 claim 9.

11
12 15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
13 instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs the method comprising:
14 a media compressor generating compressed media data in an immediately
15 streamable media (ISM) format from a digitized media input; and
16 a computer interface, coupled to the compressor, to receive the media data
17 in the ISM format and transmit it to a computer using a communications protocol;
18 the ISM format being a media format needing no format modifications by
19 the computer for the compressed media data in such format to be transmitted over
20 a network coupled to the computer and to be viewed by a streaming media player.

21
22 16. A converter as recited in claim 15 further comprising a media
23 analog/digital (A/D) converter coupled to media compressor for sending digitized
24 media to the compressor.